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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,144	10/02/2003	Ki-Keon Yeom	1572.1148	6387

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAI V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,144

Applicant(s)

YEOM ET AL.

Examiner

Tai Van Nguyen

Art Unit

3729

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,7,9,11 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4,6,8,10,12-15 and 17-22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The applicants' amendment filed 1/19/2006 has been filed considered and made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 5, 9, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baun (US 4,563,824).

As applied to claim 1, Baun discloses a disc centering device for centering discs which are spaced by spacers, comprising: a base plate (225, Fig. 3); a chuck (190) which is installed on the base plate; a hub unit (197) which is detachably engaged to the chuck and receives the discs (205, 210, 215) to be stacked, disc pushers (120, 147, 170) which are slidably provided outside the hub unit and include corresponding pressure members which push circumferences of the discs and center the discs (200), a driving unit (100) which slides the disc pushers, and biasing units (sensor 127) which are slidably provided outside the hub unit and push circumferences of the spacers.

As applied to claim 5, Baun discloses the disc pushers are provided in a radial direction relative (205, 210, 215) to the hub unit.

As applied to claim 9, Baun discloses each of the pressure members includes a plate spring (175, Fig. 3) which is adapted to simultaneously pressurize the circumferences of the discs having different diameters.

As applied to claim 11, Baun discloses wherein the biasing units are installed in a radial direction (205, Fig. 3) relative to the hub unit.

As applied to claim 16, Baun discloses the biasing units include first (205, Fig 3), second (210) and third biasing (215) units which are provided in a radial direction relative to the spacers, and the first, second and third biasing units simultaneously bias the spacers stacked relative (100, 130, 150) to the hub unit.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 1/19/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In regard to the merits of Baun the applicants contend that: 1) element 205, 210 and 215 were read as discs, and 2) Baun does not teach: "bias units which are slidable provided outside the hub unit and push circumferences of the spacers" (as recited in claim 1, lines 10-11).

The examiner traverses for following the reasons.

The claimed structure is directed to a disc centering device, not discs. For further clarification, element 205, 210 and 215 were read as part of the structure of the hub unit (e.g. 197) that is capable of performing the function of to "receives the discs" to be stacked.

As for the spacer, in Baun Figure 2, shows at least 3 projections (not labeled) that extend from surface 220. These projections can each be read as a “spacer”.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., that spacers maintain a spacing between the two discs.) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Thus, the examiner position that Baun fully satisfies and reads on of the limitations of claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 12-15 and 17-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claim 23 is allowed.

Conclusion

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

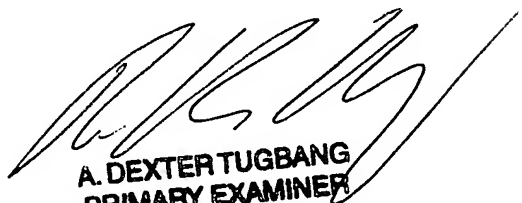
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tai Van Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4567. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 A.M - 4:30 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TN.
February 16, 2006



A. DEXTER TUGBANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER